

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

22 March 2026

8.00 Holy Communion

*At 8am, the order of service is printed on the laminated card.
The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.*

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Organ Canzonetta *William Mathias (1934-1992)*

All stand as the choir and ministers enter.

The Entrance Hymn #699

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

The Kyrie Eleison from Missa Brevis No. 6 *Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ

our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #445

From the Hymnal 1982

The Holy Gospel

John 11:1-45

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

All stand.

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried:
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All kneel.

The Prayers of the People

In our prayers today, we remember the Anglican Church in Korea; and in the Albany diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah, and the parish of Christ Church, Gilbertsville.

We remember with thanksgiving those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week and whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, *Lord, graciously hear us.*

For the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and especially, for this parish family, Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation, and for their sponsors; Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For peace in the world, and for those serving in our Armed Forces, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and for their families; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected; in our parish, we remember Tony, Keith, Rolfe, Tyler, Candance, Linda, Joe, and Holly. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those whom we have injured or offended, Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness and are now at rest. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, who by the cross and passion of your Son Jesus Christ has saved and delivered us: keep us, we pray, steadfast in faith, and enable us no longer to live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;**

**and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand. At the Peace, you may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Hymn at the Offertory #674

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

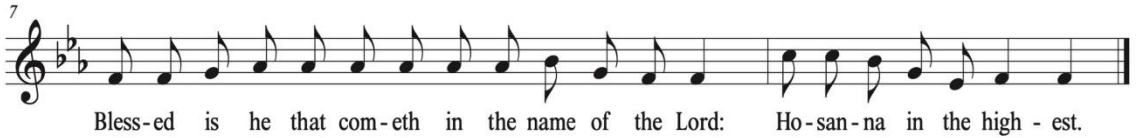
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died and rose again. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,

The Sanctus and Benedictus

John Merbecke (1510-1585)





All kneel.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he *brake* it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. "

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. "

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits,

but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Communion is administered at the altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers.

Agnus Dei from Missa Sancti Niniani

C. E. S. Littlejohn (1879-1959)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Motet

Maurice Greene (1696-1755)

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: that I may be certified how long I have to live. Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long: and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity. For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain: he heapeth up riches and cannot tell who shall gather them.

And now, Lord, what is my hope: truly my hope is even in thee. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling: hold not thy peace at my tears. O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength: before I go hence, and be no more seen.

Text: Ps. 39: 4-7, 12a, 13

Communion Hymn #549 *(Remain seated or kneeling)*

From the Hymnal 1982

After Communion, all kneel.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Said by the Celebrant.

Let us pray. O Lord and heavenly Father, who has given unto thy people the true bread which comes down from heaven, even thy Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that throughout this Lent, our souls may so be fed by him, that we may continually live in him and he in us; and that day by day, we may be renewed in spirit by the power of his endless life; who gave himself for us, and now lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

The Closing Hymn #473

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Fugue in A Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Notices

Welcome to Bethesda Church. Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are interested in becoming a member of the parish, please introduce yourself to an usher or to Fr Wallace.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers** at 8am Bob Bullock; and at 10am Libby Smith-Holmes and Paula Pinion.

Join us for **coffee** and conversation following the 10am service. Thank you to Kathleen and Mark Anspach for hosting today.

Thank you to those who helped at yesterday's Spring Cleaning.

THIS WEDNESDAY (25th March) **Holy Communion at 7.15am** followed by a simple breakfast and a brief talk on the Passion Gospels.

THIS THURSDAY (26th March) **Holy Communion at 12.10.**

Evensong at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany on Palm Sunday, 29 March at 3.30pm.

St. Peter's Church at 241 Broadway will hold a Service of **Tenebrae** on Thursday, 26th March at 7.30pm. The service is structured so participants can walk alongside our Lord from his Last Supper to his Entombment by the recitation of sacred scripture, and the singing of psalms and hymns composed and arranged by music director, Philip Spaeth. All are welcome.

Bethesda's **Special Appeal** for the month of **March** supports the local charity, FEASST - Family Emergency Assistance of Southern Saratoga County. **FEASST** is a coalition of faith communities which works together with CAPTAIN Community Human Services to meet the

needs of those facing crisis. Together, area churches and charities pool resources to better provide and coordinate efforts for those in need, particularly for needs that cannot be met through traditional support programs and services. The Family Assistance Program provides initial assessment of applications, and one-time, emergency financial assistance to eligible individuals and families experiencing hardship that could leave them without heat, shelter, or other essential needs. Bethesda has been a coalition member since 2021.

LifeWorks Community Action is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals with a wide range of services. Bethesda is currently collecting canned foods and personal hygiene products. Donations may be left in the box by the side door entrance.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church, which is accessible via Congress Street, offers free parking for the first two hours.

Daily Prayer in Lent — beginning Monday 23 March

Invocation: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer (*said daily*)

O Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people to love what you command, and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings

Monday	John 11:45-57
Tuesday	John 12:20-33
Wednesday	Philippians 2:1-11
Thursday	Hebrews 5:7-10
Friday	Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
Saturday	Hebrews 7.1-4, 15-8.2

*After the reading each day, silence may be kept for a time; then conclude with **Psalm 126** (below) and the Prayers.*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, * "The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Prayers

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Heavenly Father, who by the cross and passion of your Son Jesus Christ has saved and delivered us: keep us, we pray, steadfast in faith, and enable us no longer to live to ourselves, but to him who died for us and rose again, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



Holy Week and Easter Services 2026

Sunday, 29 March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8am Holy Communion 10am Blessing of Palms, Procession & Sung Eucharist
Tuesday, 31 March	7pm Holy Communion
Wednesday, 1 April	7pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 2 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7pm Liturgy
Friday, 3 April <i>Good Friday</i>	<i>The church remains open today from 11.15am – 3pm.</i> 12.10 Liturgy
Sunday, 5 April <i>Easter Day</i>	8am Holy Communion 10am Procession & Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 12 April <i>Sunday after Easter</i>	8am Holy Communion 10am A Service of Lessons & Carols for Easter



Holy Week & Easter Offerings

Bethesda offers the opportunity to purchase palms for Palm Sunday as well as flowers for Easter Sunday. If this is something that you would like to do, please complete this form and return it to the church office. You can place the completed form in the offering plate or mail it to the office at the address below.

I would like to contribute towards the following:

- Palms (Fans and Fronds) \$20
- Maundy Thursday (Altar of Repose, white flowers) \$25 each
- Easter Flowers (Lilies, Hyacinths, *etc.*) \$25 each

Given By: _____

In **Honor** of: _____

In **Memory** of: _____

Please return to the church office before March 27, 2026:

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office
178 Elm St. Suite 5
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



The Reverend Charles Wallace, Rector

Office Email: office@bethesdachurch.org

Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980

Website: bethesdachurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>